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PORT ISABEL-SOUTH PADRE PRESS April 2, 2015 WEEKLY

TXDOT to lower speed limits on North Padre Boulevard

By ABBIE KUNKEL
Special to the PRESS

The South Padre Island City Council met Wednesday after a short hiatus due to Spring Break activities. The council covered many topics, most notably discussion on a proposed ordinance to address noncompliance with payment of the Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) as well as the discussion with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) which has agreed to lower speed limits on North Padre Boulevard.

Before the meeting, Council members Alita Bagley, Julie Lammie, and Dennis Stahl met with members of TxDOT to discuss their recent speed study and the reduction of speed limits on the north end of Padre Boulevard. There has been much discussion regard-

ing the issue of safety for bikers and pedestrians in that area. DQG 7/27 KDV AQDQO, DUDING SPI Parks, Recreation and WHIXWIA ANDWLRQ & RPPI-W granted Durcon Realty for being selected as April's Yard of the Month and requested renovations for the month of May. Finally, District Attorney Luis V. Sauer was honored for his work in domestic violence awareness.

The council meeting opened with public comments with the council mentioning a tree planting to take place Saturday, April 11 at 9 a.m. Cristin Howard, director of the SPI Birding Center, reported a successful AUVW JUDKIH AHOG WILS FAWCOWHET Entrance. Council members agreed that aluminum poles would improve aesthetics and requested that Jones move

forward with the project. Also on the agenda was discussion of the proposed OR-WHIXWIA ANDWLRQ & RPPI-W granted. Durcon Realty for being selected as April's Yard of the Month and requested renovations for the month of May. Finally, District Attorney Luis V. Sauer was honored for his work in domestic violence awareness.

Assistant City Manager Diana Jones gave a short report on the progress of the Convention Center repairs which are currently under budget and ahead of schedule. She also presented options to the council for additional street lighting infrastructure on the west side of South Padre Boulevard near the entrance. Council members agreed that aluminum poles would improve aesthetics and requested that Jones move

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added to the Convention and Visitors Bureau (CVB) budget for promotion of the Island that will directly impact those in the lodging industry. Some concerns were expressed in regards to registration fees and the requirement, especially by those owners and managers who run a large number of properties. In light of these concerns, the City Council will hold a work session on Wednesday, April 8 to give interested parties the opportunity to give their input on how the ordinance can work to EHOHAW HYHURQH 7KH FRXO. tabled the item until the next City Council meeting which is scheduled for April 8.

Finally, as City Manager Bill LLEIHW FICHEUDWIO KLVA year with the City, the council PDPW EHQUHAW RJ WKII RUGL QM&H the meeting in executive session to conduct his annual evaluation.

Coast

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grants available to both law enforcement and educational entities.

Drew Lentz, a self-described "solutions architect" who has helped establish emergency communication networks for the City of McAllen and the City of Rio Grande City, says many parties could make use of the network. "It's not just local law enforcement that we're helping takes advantage of this communication — network — that we're building. We're helping that federal agencies like the Coast Guard, and like Customs and Border Patrol, and like FEMA, and guys like that," he said. How it works

The network works by installing devices, or nodes, on existing structures, such as electrical poles, and drawing energy from them. The devices, each about as big across as a sheet of paper, said Lentz, would be distributed across the region in a pattern determined by a complex engineering survey that takes into account how changes in terrain would affect the network. Hundreds of devices would be needed to serve the region. "It could be anywhere from 300 to 700. We're looking at somewhere down the middle at 500 right now, and that's a very rough estimate," Lentz said. He added that the price per unit can vary widely depending on the manufacturer. "The cost per unit varies. ... There's some places that it's very expensive. It's \$3,000 per device, and there's some places where it's, you know, \$500 per device," he said.

One of the advantages of the system, though, is its ability to maintain a wireless in-

ternet signal even in less than ideal circumstances, such as during a natural disaster or power outage. "In the event of an emergency disaster, even having my degradation of performance at all," Lentz said, describing how generators or even wind power could be connected to the nodes. Aside from the versatility of power supply options, the network itself can maintain open lines of communication when others fail, Lentz said. "As long there's one point within the mesh that has a connection out to the world, then all of the other ones can take advantage of that," he said. An mesh network was in place in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina struck that city and devastated traditional forms of communication. One node was found operational, and through it, communications were re-established with neighboring nodes in a chain reaction of connectivity that subsequently became the primary communication method immediately aftermath of the storm, Lentz said.

With that kind of capability in mind, project planners have decided to conduct a pilot program to test the feasibility and success of such a network by linking the Port Isabel Police Department across the bay to the South Padre Island Fire Department.

For Part 2 of this story, visit us online at www.portisabel-southpadre.com

ATTENTION TAXPAYERS

LETTER OF DEMAND

Concerned Citizen

Port Isabel, Texas

R. E., Maintenance in office:

Dear Commissioner Torres:

A group of concerned citizens has examined public records that show that you are in violation of the Port Isabel city charter, which you signed and created on November 28, 1983.

We call your attention to Article 2, section 202, which reads in part: "Mayor, Commissioners, and other officers and employees shall not be indebted to the city, save and except for ad valorem taxes in the current year, and previous year only, but with such ad valorem taxes and any other indebtedness the City to be timely paid, otherwise constituting a disqualifying indebtedness hereinafter."

Please find enclosed copy of public record which shows without any doubt that you have violated the rules of office and are disqualified from continuing in your office and/or running for election. We demand you resign from office and withdraw as candidate from the upcoming election.

If you choose not to resign, this letter is to serve as a demand to the mayor and the three other remaining commissioners to remove you from office at the next scheduled meeting. We sincerely hope you resign and avoid the further sanctions authorized by the City Charter.

Sincerely,

Concerned Citizen

CC: Mayor, P.L. City Commissioners, Cameron County District Attorney Office, Cameron County Elections Office, State of Texas Election, State of Texas Atty. Gen. and Texas Secretary of State.



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